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LETTER DATED 7 MARCH 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter dated today, from my President to Your Excellency.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 7 March 1994 from the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

Resolution 900 (1994) adopted by the Security Council on Friday, 4 March 1994 is undoubtedly useful. We believe it will further encourage a process of diminishing hostilities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

However, this resolution does not ultimately protect Maglaj, a city under siege for nine months and which in the past month has become a particular target of Serbian forces and subject to an offensive against its civilians. The aggressor has constantly stepped up pressure on the city's defenders by employing new artillery, especially those pieces withdrawn from Sarajevo's surroundings. Thousands of people in this besieged city will not be able to resist these forces that have an abundant supply of weaponry and, from the technical point of view, are more superior.

The situation in this city is dire and calls for urgent action by the Security Council. It is necessary to halt these attacks immediately and to dispatch a team of international observers. These steps should be followed by the sending of peace-keeping troops to the besieged city. If the above steps are not taken, there is a real likelihood that genocide will be carried out against the inhabitants of that city.

If the international community allows this to happen due to its own inertia, all achievements in the recent weeks will be annulled. If, instead, tragedy in Maglaj is prevented by resolute action, the current momentum towards peace will receive the reinforcement that it needs to establish peace throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I urge the Council to immediately take those necessary measures and resolute steps that would be pertinent to the weight of the situation.

(Signed) Alija IZETBEGOVIC
President